The National Water Policy, 1987 provides that the Water Resources should be conserved and the availability be augmented by maximising retention and minimizing losses. Irrigation is a State subject and planning implementation, operation and maintenance of all irrigation schemes including disilting of minor irrigation tanks is taken up by the State Governments according to their own priority and availability of funds. Disilting of reservoir to regain their retention capacity has been adopted by the States. Disiltation of minor irrigation tanks has been taken up by the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry through external assistance on a moderate scale. Disilting of dams and river is not technically viable for improving their storage capacity as disposal of removed silt is not environmentally sustainable. Disilting of navigation channels in sea ports and inland waterways is taken up to increase the available draft to maintain their navigability.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of Karnataka submitted the Karnataka Tank Improvement Project for World Bank assistance of Rs. 946.47 crores. The project envisages to create an additional irrigation potential of 1,80,000 hectares as a result of rehabilitation of 6000 Minor Irrigation tanks. The proposal was recommended to the World Bank on 05.10.2000. The project is under appraisal and Preparation Mission of World Bank has visited Karnataka during 11—18th June 2001 for this purpose.

Wastage of River Water

310. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how much river water and Peninsular river water is wasted to sea every year in India;

(b) whether a study has been made as to area irrigated, quantity of agricultural produce, its cost, mandays generated, cost benefit ratio regarding the water wasted to sea;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES)SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) As per the assessment of the Central Water Commission, the position in respect of availability and utilisation of river waters of the country and the Peninsular rivers is as under;

Particulars of availability/utilisation	Unit of measure	All rivers of India	Peninsular Rivers
Total average annual flow	Billion Cubic Metre	1869	584
Utilizable average annual flow	-Do-	690	325
Live Storage Capacity created	-Do-	176.73	105.81
Storage Capacity under construction	-Do-	75.42	50.51
Additional storage capacity under consideration	-Do-	132.32	25.57

The assessment of water utilisation also indicates the present utilisation of water for different purposes as 605 Billion Cubic Metres of which the utilization for irrigation is 501 Billion Cubic Metres. Against an Ultimate Irrigation Potential of 140 million hectare in the country, an irrigation potential of about 95 million hectare has been created by 1999-2000 through Plan investment of about Rs. 50,000 crore for construction of Major & Medium and Minor Irrigation projects. This has contributed to an increase in the production of food grains from about 51 million Tonnes in 1950-51 to about 201 million Tonnes in 1999-2000. The Ministry of Water resources formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development, which envisages inter-linking of various Peninsular Rivers and the Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water defit basins. A preliminary assessment indicates that it would be possible to make use of about 200-250 BCM of additional

water by transferring water from surplus basins to water-short basins, which can in turn generate additional irrigation potential of about 35 million hectare (22 million hectare in Himalayan component and 13 million hectare in Peninsular component).

Assessment of irrigation area, quantity of agricultural produce and cost benefit rations are calculated in respect of irrigation projects constructed or/are planned for construction.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 23rd JULY, 2001

Heritage City Inside the Tuglakabad Fort

†*l.SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heritage city is in the offing inside the historic Tuglakabad Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when,the city is likely to come up?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) There is no law for declaring any city/monument as a heritage city. The Archaeological Survey of India declares ancient monuments etc. to be of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The Archaeological Survey of India have declared the walls, gateways, bastions and internal buildings of both inner and outer citadels of Tughlakabad Fort as protected monuments

†*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 23rd July, 2001 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 24th July, 2001.